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National Intelligence Daily

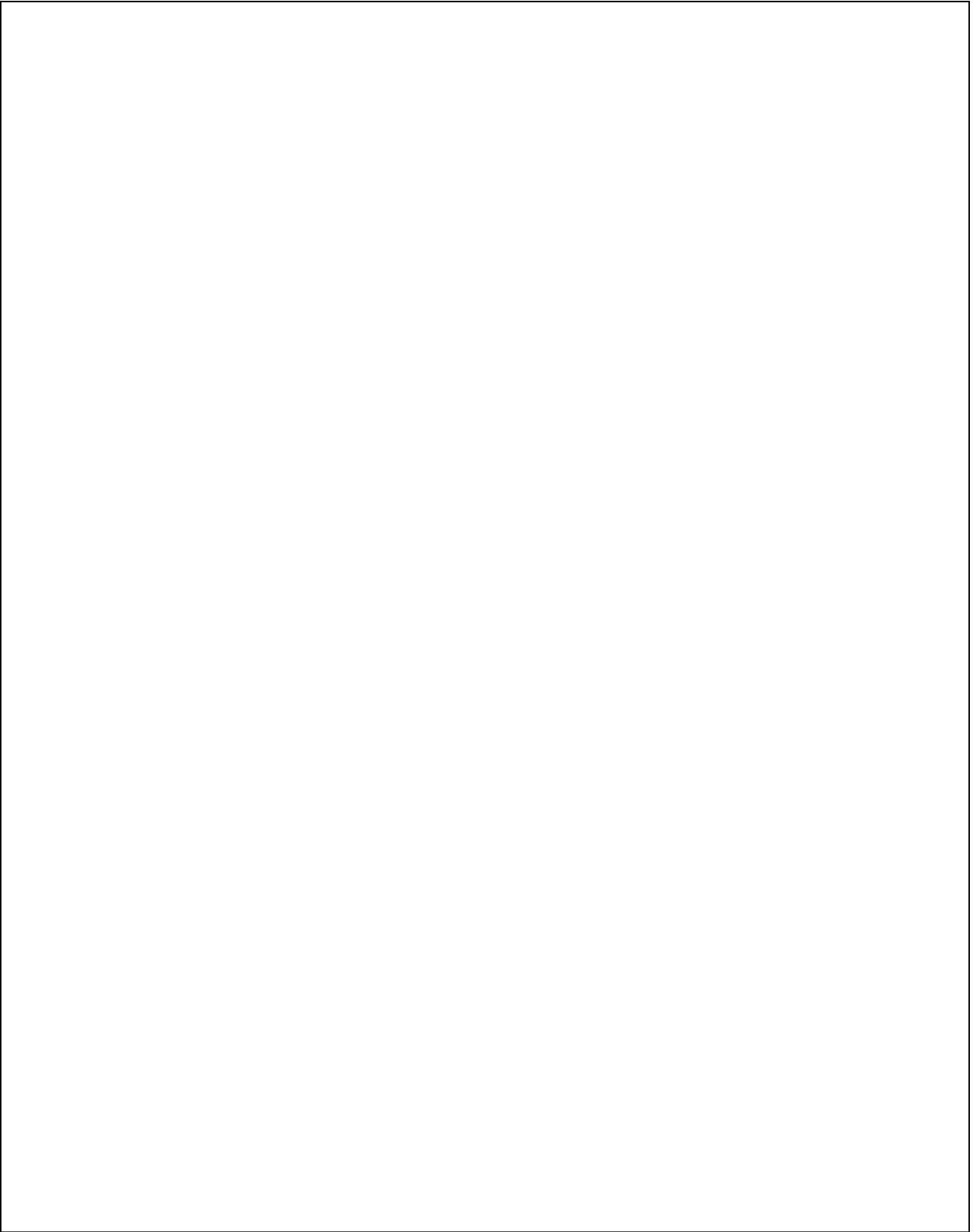
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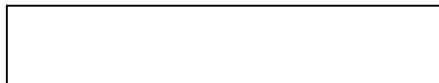
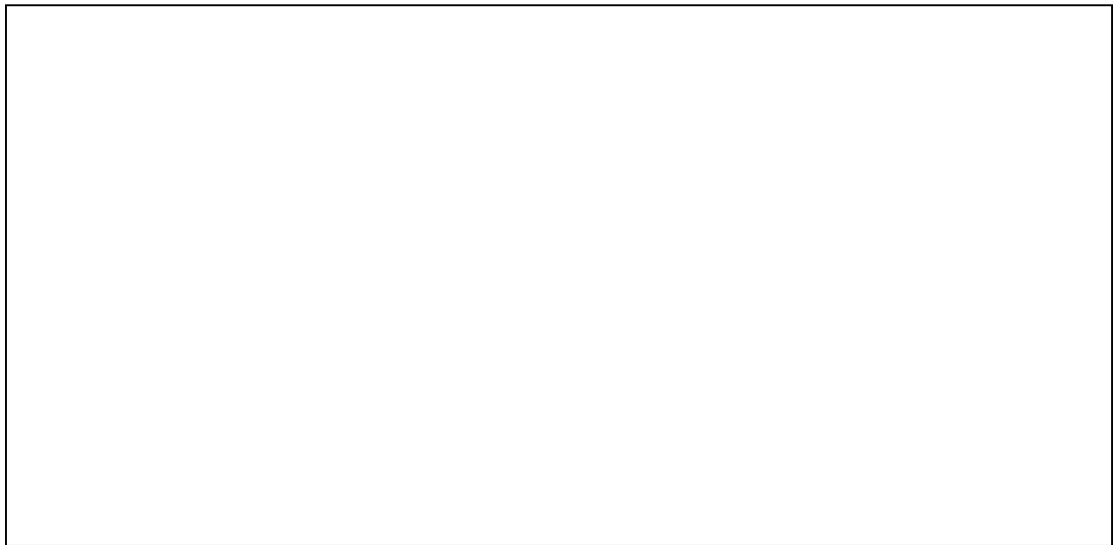
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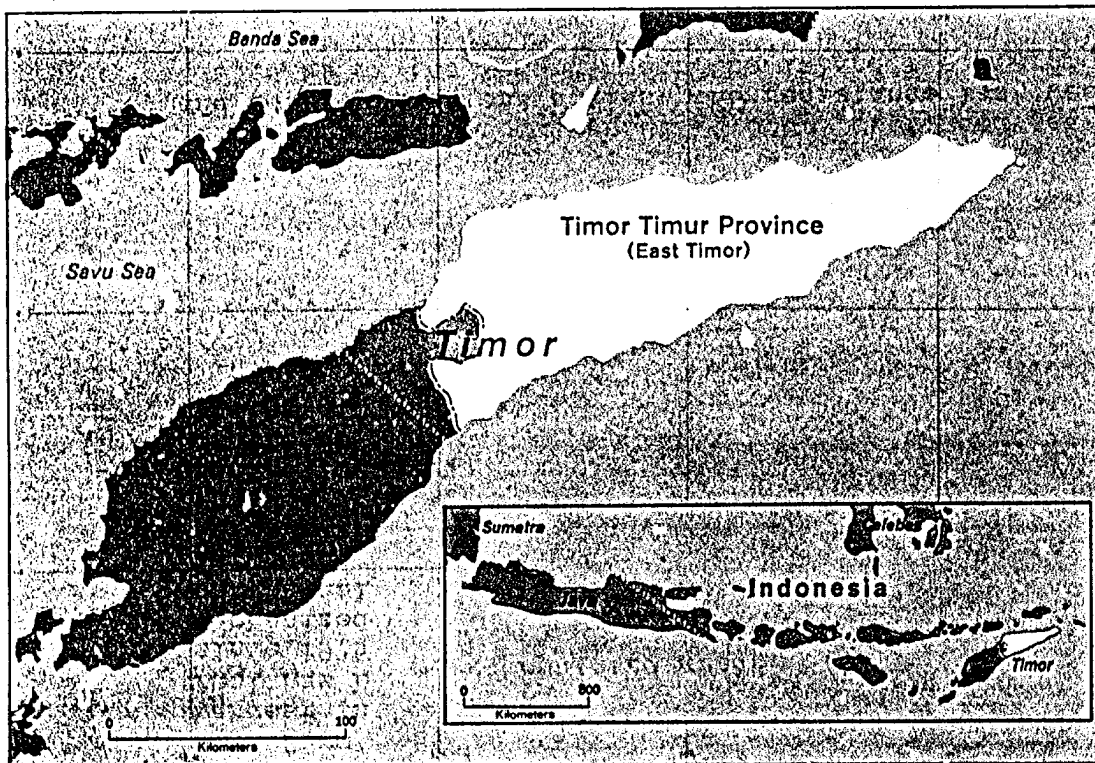


Indonesia: *Refugees in East Timor* 10



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INDONESIA: Refugees in East Timor

The International Red Cross has appealed to 15 countries for immediate cash and medical supplies for East Timor, where Indonesian military operations have displaced an estimated 60,000 persons over the past three years. Some 20,000 Timorese

are near starvation. Continued military operations against pro-independence Fretilin rebels have increased the number of refugees fleeing from the mountains to more populated areas.

The Red Cross is asking for approximately \$7 million in addition to the \$1.3 million already pledged. The Indonesian invasion in 1975 and unexpectedly strong Fretilin resistance since then have so severely dislocated the economy that serious underproduction of food crops has resulted in food shortages in much of the province. The economic infrastructure, always substandard, is in disarray, and transportation facilities are virtually nonexistent. The Indonesian Government recognizes that it is unable to feed the population of its newest province. Jakarta's recent decision to allow foreign observers to assess the deteriorating situation in Timor evidently was taken in order to improve its prospects for obtaining international assistance.

The Indonesian Army plans to create some 150 resettlement centers near the coast for refugees now scattered in receiving centers around the province. The refugees will be given tools, clothing, and building materials, plus a dose of Indonesian language and political orientation.

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